

Vigo Co. Park & Recreation Progress Told On Otter Creek Watershed Plan

1. N. Star 8-20-70
The Vigo County Park & Recreation Board received an encouraging progress report on the Otter Creek Watershed Project in Tuesday's meeting at the Courthouse as Max Miller county agent, said that a high return on investment is anticipated for the project.

Miller, ex-officio member of the board, reported that a preliminary inquiry indicates a potential return of \$1.80 for every dollar invested in the conservation factors of the watershed proposal. Noting that to be "a very high return," he said that anything realized from recreation and land value improvements would increase the ultimate gain further, over the 50-year period of the estimate.

The county park department is working on the development of a public lake recreation facility in conjunction with the watershed project.

While large lake and park will be located entirely within Vigo county (in Nevins and Lost Creek townships) the entire watershed area will spread across approximately 77,000 acres in three counties, according to Miller's report.

Discussion following by Miller, Jack Wood, president of the board, and other members, took note of a current effort to establish a conservancy district to administer the watershed program. The conservancy district would include approximately 38,000 acres in Vigo County, 30,000 in Clay County and 9,000 acres in Parke County.

Wood stressed, however, that the local park would be under the control of the Vigo County Park & Recreation Department which is considering joining sponsorship of the conservancy district.

Participants in the discussion in addition to Wood, Miller and department Superintendent David Beres, included Ruel Fox Burns, Mrs. R. L. Winklepleck and John Etling, members of the board.

The board also approved a 1971 budget of approximately \$134,000 plus the special non-reverting capital fund based on tax rates. The budget will be presented to the County Council at the annual meeting of that body.

Community Affairs File

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